

EXECUTIVE REPORT

Anthony Maher, Atlantic Regional Representative
Canadian Federation of Medical Students Annual General Meeting
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I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

As the Atlantic Regional Representative on the CFMS Executive, my role is to represent the medical students of the Atlantic region. This includes the medical students attending Memorial University and Dalhousie University. Since assuming my role on the Executive following the AGM in Windsor, Ontario in August 2015, I have engaged in the following key activities:

- Coordination of the AGM 2016 Bid Process. In collaboration with Rosemary Conliffe and 4 volunteer reviewers from the Executive, I advertised and facilitated the selection process for the 2016 Annual General Meeting. This process resulted in the selection of the University of Alberta as the 2016 AGM host school.
- Advocacy for the CFMS-FMEQ Wellness Survey at Memorial University. In response to concerns about the eligibility of students' survey responses from Memorial University, I facilitated a series of discussions between the CFMS Executive, the Lead Investigators of the FMEQ-CFMS Wellness Survey, and the Ethics Director of the NL Human Research Ethics Authority.
- Participation in AFMC Working Group on a Common Legal Agreement for the Student Electives Portal. I joined Franco Rizzuti (VP Finance) on the Common Legal Agreement Working Group. This involved conducting a review of the terms of the various agreements governing the Portal and providing feedback from a medical student perspective.
- Participation in AFMC Working Group on Immunizations. Along with VP Education Nebras Warsi (who acted as Lead), I served as one of the student representatives on the Working Group tasked simplifying immunization requirements for medical student electives in Canada. I assisted with the drafting, dissemination, and review of a survey related to immunization requirements. This was subsequently presented at SGM and CCME 2016, where feedback was received from various stakeholders. A draft standard form for immunizations has since been produced and will be implemented in the fall.
- Inclusion of Moncton Campus of the Université de Sherbrooke. In cooperation with the CFMS Quebec Regional Representative and the VP Communications, I helped welcome medical students from the Moncton

campus of the Université de Sherbrooke at the CFMS SGM 2016. This coincided with the formal confirmation of the Moncton campus' membership in the CFMS.

- Coordinated “Atlantic Week” on CFMS social media. I solicited and distributed social media posts about events at Dalhousie campuses and Memorial. This occurred at two points throughout the year, in the fall and spring.
- Participated in Working Group for the Canadian Medical Association Ambassador Program. I joined Anthea Lafreniere, CFMS President, as one of two student members on the CMA Ambassador Program Working Group. This culminated in helping to implement the Ambassador Program at the 2016 CMA General Council in Vancouver, BC.

II. DESCRIPTION OF POSITION

As outlined in the guiding documents of the CFMS, the regional representatives several key functions. They serve to represent the regional member schools and bring any concerns and issues that may arise at the member schools to the attention of the CFMS Executive. As Atlantic Regional Representative, my duty has been to act as the liaison between Memorial University, Dalhousie University and the CFMS Executive. As a fully functioning member of the Executive, I have also taken on projects that support the organization as a whole.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITIES

A. MEETINGS ATTENDED

CFMS Annual General Meeting, Windsor, Ontario – September 17-20, 2015
CFMS Fall Executive Meeting, Ottawa, Ontario – October 16-18, 2015
Atlantic Regional Teleconference – November 2, 2015
CFMS Winter Executive Meeting, Toronto, Ontario – January 8-10, 2016
Atlantic Medical Students' Conference, Halifax, Nova Scotia – February 12-14, 2016
CFMS Lobby Day, Ottawa, Ontario – February 19-22, 2016
CFMS Summer Executive Meeting, Calgary, AB – June 3-5, 2016
CMA General Council, Vancouver, BC – August 21-24, 2016
CFMS Executive Teleconferences (3), held throughout the year

B. PROJECT AREAS

1) Coordination of AGM 2016 Bid Process.

- In collaboration with Rosemary Conliffe and 4 volunteer reviewers from the Executive, I advertised and facilitated the selection process for the 2016 Annual General Meeting. Applications were received from 3 schools

from both the Atlantic and Western regions. The successful school was the University of Alberta. I subsequently compiled feedback from each of the reviewers and conveyed this to the student leaders who had prepared bids.

2) CFMS-FMEQ Wellness Survey Advocacy at Memorial University.

- In response to concerns about the eligibility of students' survey responses from Memorial University, I facilitated a series of discussions between the CFMS Executive, the Lead Investigators of the FMEQ-CFMS Wellness Survey, and the Ethics Director of the NL Human Research Ethics Authority (HREA). Among the CFMS Executive, this resulted in greater awareness of the specific requirements regarding ethics approval in the province of Newfoundland and Labrador. The end result was the inclusion of the survey responses completed by Memorial students. I also facilitated a discussion between Brandon Maser, one of the investigators for the survey, and the Ethics Director for the NLREA regarding translating these specific ethics requirements into a memory document to guide future CFMS-sponsored research.

3) "Atlantic Week" on Social Media.

- Following the suggestion of the VP Communications that we hold regionally themed weeks on social media, I worked with the CFMS representatives at Memorial, Dalhousie Halifax, and Dalhousie Saint John to collect posts for the CFMS Twitter and Facebook feeds. During two, 1-week periods throughout the year (one in the Fall, and another in the Spring), events and updates from the Atlantic region were featured on the CFMS feeds.

4) Participation in AFMC Working Group on a Common Legal Agreement for the Student Electives Portal.

- I joined Franco Rizzuti (VP Finance) on the Common Legal Agreement Working Group. The Common Legal Agreement Working Group consisted of a teleconference and comprehensive review of the Terms of Use and Student Declaration associated with the AFMC Student Portal. In consultation with other Executive members, I drafted a summary document responding to the documents discussed in the teleconference. In particular, this included a request for greater transparency in the Master Agreement governing the Student Portal.

5) Participation in AFMC Working Group on Immunizations.

- As a participant in the Working Group on Immunizations, I have joined Nebras Warsi (VP Education) in representing the concerns of medical students regarding immunizations. We have assisted with drafting, dissemination, and review of a survey aimed at streamlining the immunization requirements for medical student electives in Canada. The VP Education and I presented the findings from this survey at SGM and

CCME 2016. The members of the Working Group have since produced a draft standard form for immunizations. Following more consultations with medical schools over the coming weeks, the plan is to implement this form, or a refined version of it, during the fall of 2016.

6) Canadian Medical Association Ambassador Program Working Group.

- Following my attendance at the CMA General Council 2015 in Halifax as a medical student ambassador, I was invited to join the Ambassador Program Working Group in 2015-2016. Along with the CMA President in her role as one of the co-chairs, I helped to devise a program that encourages and facilitates the participation of medical students, residents, and early-career physicians in the activities of the CMA. In addition to helping with the selection process for Ambassadors, I acted as a liaison between the Ambassador Program and the CFMS, ensuring open communication between both entities.

IV. FUTURE PROJECTS & POTENTIAL AREAS FOR ADVOCACY

1) Continue work towards a Standard Form with AFMC Working Group on Immunizations.

- In the wake of discussions surrounding the draft standardized immunization form at SGM and CCME 2016, a crucial area of advocacy remains the widespread adoption of such a form at each of our member schools. Given the existence of the AFMC Working Group, this work will be greatly facilitated by working in close collaboration with the Group's Chair, Dr. Donald McKay, and all other participants. It will be essential for the CFMS to remain actively involved in the work of Dr. Libitch, Dr. McKay, and all other members of this Working Group. This will ensure that medical students are able to apply for electives in a way that is streamlined and efficient. Furthermore, it will ensure that any conflicts that may arise in the future regarding the use of a standardized form will be addressed in a timely manner.

2) Integration of Moncton Campus.

- In cooperation with the CFMS Quebec Regional Representative and the VP Communications, representatives from the Moncton campus of the Université de Sherbrooke were welcomed to the CFMS at SGM 2016. A key area of activity for the future Atlantic Regional Representative will be to ensure the full inclusion of Moncton students in Atlantic regional events and teleconferences. A prime example in this regard is the annual Atlantic Medical Students' Conference. From an administrative standpoint, it will also be crucial for all Executive members to work with the Moncton campus to finalize payment of membership dues and ensure that CFMS resources and opportunities are made fully available to Moncton students.

3) Continue "Atlantic Week" on social media.

- This initiative was a great success. It provided a “snapshot” of activities in the Atlantic region for the benefit of all those who follow the CFMS social media pages. It would be ideal to expand the frequency of these regionally themed weeks, perhaps to 3 or 4 weeks (instead of just two) over the course of the year.

3) Further explore ways to facilitate meetings between medical students in the Atlantic region.

- It is important for the Atlantic Regional Representative to further explore ways to engage with CFMS representatives at Dalhousie, Memorial, and now, the Moncton campus of the Université de Sherbrooke. I organized a teleconference between the CFMS representatives at Dalhousie and Memorial in November. While this was a good opportunity to hear about activities at the other schools, it was not felt by members of the group that an additional spring teleconference was needed. This was due to our meeting in person at SGM, and the addition of updates via social media through the “Atlantic week” on social media initiative.
- Related to this, it would be advisable for future Atlantic Regional Representatives to undertake a review of the Atlantic Students’ Medical Conference. Held in Halifax in 2016 and attended by myself and several other students from Memorial and Dalhousie, this Conference is the sole opportunity that medical students in the Atlantic region have to get together in person. The Atlantic Regional Representative should proactively get in touch with the organizers of this Conference in order to ensure that the Conference is accessible to as many students as possible. Furthermore, the Conference represents a great opportunity to get medical students in Atlantic Canada interested in the CFMS and provide education about the services that the CFMS offers.

4) Maintain close links between the CFMS and the CMA Ambassador Program.

- Given the tremendous enthusiasm for the CMA Ambassador Program amongst attendees at the CMA General Council in recent years, it would be highly advisable for the CFMS to remain an active participant in General Council and, indeed, in CMA activities more broadly. This would ensure that future CMA-sponsored activities aimed at engaging medical students incorporate insights and suggestions from the CFMS. It may also identify further opportunities for collaboration between the CFMS and the CMA.

5) Investigate opportunities for partnering with medical podcasts.

- In the spring of 2016, I had attempted to initiate a partnership between the CFMS and The Rounds Table, a weekly podcast about major new research in medicine hosted at the University of Toronto. The aim of this endeavour was to give medical students the opportunity to participate in podcasting while also engaging with research from major journals like the New England Journal of Medicine, the British Medical Journal, and others.

The initial thought behind this partnership was that members of the EdCom could occasionally record segments to be featured on the podcast. In exchange, The Rounds Table would feature promotional material about the CFMS. Unfortunately, the EdCom student members who had initially signed up to record podcast segments were unavailable once the time came to submit recordings. Combined with host changes at The Rounds Table and the summer break, the partnership did not proceed as originally planned.

- While a CFMS Executive Member in any position or a member of the CFMS EdCom may assume this role, I believe it would be highly valuable to further develop the partnership with medical podcasts, of which there are many. In addition to providing a medium through which to share interesting and topical research, this could provide an opportunity for the CFMS to engage with learners and clinicians alike through the podcast format.